

IMPROVING THE EIGHT GRADE STUDENTS' SPEAKING ABILITY BY USING SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION AT SMP ISLAM AL-USTMANI JEMBER IN THE 2019/2020 ACADEMIC YEAR

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Abstract

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Speaking is one of the most important aspects that can influence the students to increase their pronunciation which the goal is to enable the students to use English as communication will be used in daily activities. However, the English teacher said that the eight grade students of SMP Islam Al-Ustmani Jember got a low score in speaking. Therefore, it is important to do a research entitled Improving the Eight Grade Students' Speaking Ability by Using Small Group Discussion at SMP Islam Al-ustmani Jember in the 2019/2020 Academic Year with the action hypothesis of this research is SGD technique can improve students' speaking ability and students' active participation in the eighth grade students of SMP Islam Al-Ustmani Jember 2019/2020 academic year by grouping & sharing the topic material given.

The design of the research is Class Room Action Research. The research subject is the eighth grade consisting of 20 students. The data are collected test method and the instrument used is observation checklist and test item. In order to analyse the data students' speaking score, the percentage formula is used.

Based on the result of the research the student activity is achieved the criteria of success during used SGD as technique in teaching and learning process in the class. Which is the percentage score is increased 2%. It can be seen from the first cycle the percentage is 68% then it increased in the second cycle 70%.

It can be concluded that SGD technique is able to improve students' English speaking ability of the eight grade of SMP Islam Al-usmani Jember 2019/2020 academic year by grouping & sharing the topic material given.

Key Word: Speaking Ability, Small Group Discussion

1. INTRODUCTION

Speaking is an activity that almost 24 hours people used to share their idea or just show their feelings to the other people, speaking is one of the most important aspects that can influence the students to increase their pronunciation which is the goal to teaching English in Indonesia are to enable the students to use English as means of communication which will be used specially in daily activities. Many students in SMP Islam Al-Ustmani Jember find that speaking is considered as one of the difficult subjects.

Based on interview with the English teacher of SMP Islam Al-Ustmani Jember, some the eight grade students of SMP Islam Al-Ustmani Jember got a low score in speaking, it is 60. The teacher said that they have difficulties in learning speaking. First, they were lack of vocabulary. Second, they were affraid of making mistake in practice. Third, they were commanly mispronouncing the words. And the last, they were not interested in learning speaking.

Based on the problem, SGD is one of activities that allows to contribute students ideas or thing that they want to share in the group. Brewer (1997:22) states that” A small group discussion follows democratic guidelines and allows everyone to contribute many ideas for others to discuss and reflect upon.” It can be inferred that SGD is collection of many people ideas which is as function to share their mind to find the conclusion of what they are discussing about.

According to O’Grady,et.al (1996: p. 4), speaking ability is the students’ ability in expressing their ideas orally which is represented by the scores of speaking. Speaking is appropriate way to practice their skill to deliver their opinion. By able to speak, students can easily deliver any information and share their ideas among them. When sharing ideas, students will have the chance to learn from other learners without feeling ashamed because they were in same group and they can practice their knowledge as well as measure the level of competence and their acquisition of English.

Small group discussion Method

Ur (1996) states on her book entitled “ A course in language teaching”, (1996: p120), Classroom activities such as group discussion is one of the technique that teacher should use to develop learners’ ability trough speech in teaching speaking as skill. Small group of around 5 students provoke greater achievement and participation in the class (Harmer, 2001). It means, working group could help students to express their idea among the team members, and helps students to understand the material easier.

Objective of the Research

The aims of this research to find out:

1. The way of improving speaking ability by using small group discussion (SGD) in eighth grade students of SMP Islam Al-Ustmani Jember.
2. The way to improve students' active participation by using SGD in eighth grade students of SMP Islam Al-Ustmani Jember.

Significance of the Research

The significance of the research are stated as follows :

1. For the Learners
 - To encourage speaking skill to speak more in the class.
 - To encourage speaking skill to learn more vocabulary.
2. For the Teacher
 - To help Teacher to Teach in more interesting and enjoyable strategy.
3. For the Researcher
 - References for further research.

2. METHOD

Based on the problem, the kind of this research was Classroom Action Research (CAR). Ary, et.al (2010: p. 514-517) stated that the action research was a process to improve education by incorporating change and involves educator working together to improve their own practice which planned, systematic, and cyclical approach to understanding the learning process and analyzing educational places of work and formulate acceptable solutions to local problems.

Design of the Research

According to Kemmis and McTaggart (1988) in Burns (1999: p 8), There were the; planning, acting, observing, and reflecting.

Data Collecting

How to collect the data of this action research are from :

1. Speaking test
 - To know the speaking skill ability before and after the treatment.
2. Observation checklist
 - To observe speaking skill activeness during the class activity.
3. Field Note
 - To record how the teaching and learning process occurred.

Data Analysis

After conducting the speaking test and assessing it using speaking rubric, then would be analyzed the percentage of success using the formula below:

$$E = \frac{n}{N} \times 100\%$$

Notes:

E : The percentage of the students' score of speaking ability

n : The total number of students' who pass the target score

N: The total number of students' in the class.

(Adopted from Ali, 1993:186)

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Implementation of Small Group Discussion (SGD) Technique to Improve Students' Speaking Ability

Group discussion can give the students opportunities to speak freely without feeling shy. It can have a better influence on the students' speaking. Small Group Discussion (SGD) help them to gain self-confidence and other speaking aspects. SGD could improving students speaking ability could be improved student speaking ability by building vocabulary.

Harmer (2002) points out that there are some classroom tasks for which pair work is not sufficient and could be ineffective. Thus, it will be better to organize them in group through which students can create group story or role-play. Small group activities help students create more interactional environment. Learners perform a learning task through interaction. In small groups, learner have the opportunity to interact, question, and elaborate with peers more frequently because they were in the same group. Learning speaking through SGD is fun, because the learner can share ideas they had in their mind. Sharing idea effectively one to the other learner can help each other of the group, they can achieve the goal together as group learning. To do this learners need to have great motivation to learn (Fauzi 2017). Because learning to speak is more difficult than learning to understand spoken language (La'biran,2017). It means that motivation to learn to speak is very important for learners to help the to produce language in

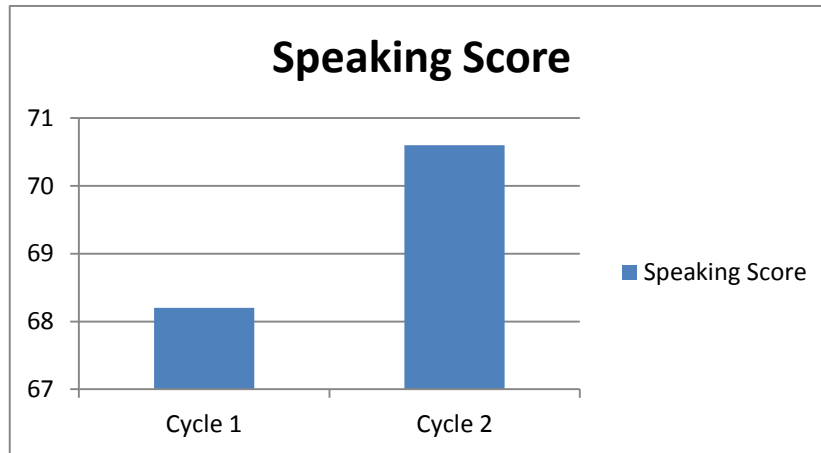
spoken form not only to understand it but unable to give responds. Moreover, enjoyment in teaching learning process can motivate them to learn English better.

How Small Group Discussion (SGD) Technique can Increase Students' Active Participation

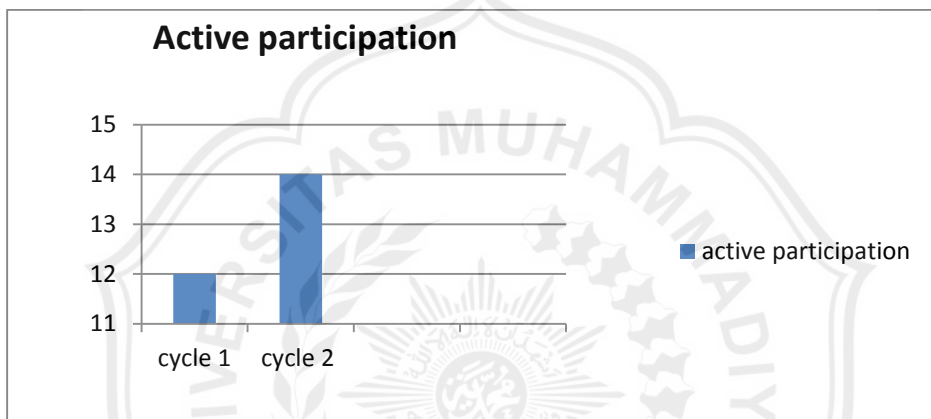
Students' active participation in class is needed to make classroom situation. It can be one of evidence that the class has a good environment to make students' more interested in learning some subject SGD help learners to have a better self esteem (Argawati, 2014). Trough SGD are devided into some small groups, which means they have less responsibility. It will help low achieve learners to take part in a group that is why it help them with self esteem (Kidvatter, 1996: 242). In addition, speaking needs to be rehearsed as often as possible and to be used in real communication as natural as possible.

Ur (p. 7) says that the motivation of participants improves when they work in small group. Small Group Discussion (SGD) help them to gain self-confidence and other speaking aspects. Therefore, this technique is effective to be applied in speaking class, from the explanation above, it can be conclude that SGD could improving students speaking ability could be improved student speaking ability by building vocabulary, which teacher given vocabulary so asked learner to practice the vocabulary in a sentences then applied to the related topic (habitual activity). And active participation by teacher asked the learner to make the conclusion from the other group who was presenting the material related to the topic in front of the class, which is a way for the leaners to focus. therefore this study considered successful.

The Data Result	Cycle 1	Cycle 2
The total number of the students	20	20
The total number of students who got ≥ 70	12	14
The total number of students who got ≤ 70	8	6
The total mean score	68,2	70,6
Percentage result of cycle 1	68%	70%



Picture 2. Diagram students' speaking result in cycle 1 and 2



Picture 3. Diagram students' active participation in cycle 1 and 2

Based on the finding results the conclusion are : (1) the implementation of Small Group Discussion (SGD) can improve students' speaking ability of eight grade of SMP Islam al-Ustmani Jember in 2019/2020 academic year by building vocabulary and scrunitizing in group and sharing the topic material given. (2) and the data was gained from the speaking test and observation checklist within both first and second cycle showed that the student speaking ability after the implementation of SGD technique had significantly improved their spoken English became better in the end section of this research. It proved that the effect as well as the advantages of SGD in improving the students' speaking ability is good.

Finally, this research has answered the action hypothesis that stated SGD is able to improve speaking ability.

4. CONCLUSION

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vocabulary and scrutinizing in group and sharing the topic material given. (2) and the data was gained from the speaking test and observation checklist within both first and second cycle showed that the student speaking ability after the implementation of SGD technique had significantly improved their spoken English became better in the end section of this research. It proved that the effect as well as the advantages of SGD in improving the students' speaking ability is good.

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